



Water Permits Division e-Newsletter

JANUARY 25, 2010

A SUMMARY OF WATER PERMITTING NEWS & EVENTS

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 4

OCTOBER—DECEMBER 2009

PERMITS ISSUED

9/1/09—12/31/09

Individual Minors	40
Individual Majors	13
Sewage Sludge & Bio-solids Use or Disposal	2

GENERAL PERMITS

Class I Sanitary	74
Class II Sanitary	14
Class III Sanitary	20
Class IV Sanitary	15
Large Construction	73
Sand & Gravel	1
Petroleum UST	1
Oil & Gas Exploration	16
Autodealer	228
Hydrostatic Test	4
Exterior Vehicle Wash	13
Potable Water	1
Cement, Concrete & Asphalt	4
C&D Landfill	0
Groundwater	0
Dewater PST	2
Multi-Sector	11

% CURRENT

MAJORS	92.7
MINORS/GENERALS	96.4

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATIONS

ISSUED	61
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Water Permits Division Newsletter

LDEQ Water Permits Division (WPD) publishes a Quarterly Newsletter to provide the regulated community, citizens, and other interested parties with updates and information relevant to water permitting. We need your comments, recommendations, and input. Please contact Yvonne Baker at 225-219-3073 or Melvin Mitchell at 225-219-3181/3013.

Water Permits Division Staff Update

Recent staff changes: Denise Roderick has transferred to WPD and is the new administrative coordinator for mailing. John Chopin, Mehdi Aarabi, and Ardrene Logan will be transferring to WPD from the LDEQ Laboratory in the first quarter of 2010 and be assigned as permit writers. Dykstra Freeman and Colin McCauley have left the WPD in October to pursue new endeavors.

Sewage Sludge Haulers and Disposal Sites

The WPD has approved or conditionally approved 184 haulers. Unregistered haulers may submit registration forms and their submittals will be evaluated, but they cannot pump or haul sewage sludge until they have received an Approval Letter from DEQ. LDEQ is evaluating the disposal sites indicated on the registration forms to ensure they are properly permitted. A list of all approved sewage sludge disposal facilities and a list of all approved sewage sludge haulers is posted on the LDEQ Sewage Sludge/Biosolids Internet site (<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2296/Default.aspx>). Both lists will be updated every 60 days. For more information contact Kilren Vidrine at 225-219-3012 or Yvonne Baker at 225-219-3073.

Antidegradation

LDEQ is working with EPA Region 6 on the state antidegradation implementation policy. LDEQ is currently revising the draft Antidegradation Implementation Procedures. The revision will be public noticed in the upcoming months. For more information contact Yvonne Baker at 225-219-3073.

Training Seminars/ EnviroSchool

LDEQ will be sponsoring **FREE** training sessions and informational seminars in the near future. The topics

will include: Pesticides General Permit, Minimum Quantification Limits (MQLs), and Zero Discharge Permits. Watch the website for more information.

Wetland Assimilation Projects

Introducing treated sanitary wastewater into a suitable wetland can ensure growth and health of a natural wetland. The importance and function of wetlands include, but are not limited to the following: erosion and flood control, saltwater intrusion control, water quality enhancement, habitat for threatened and endangered species, wildlife habitat, nutrient material cycling, recreation and aesthetics. Wetland assimilation projects are encouraged and supported by this agency and by environmental groups within the state. For more information, please visit the LDEQ website or contact Todd Franklin at (225) 219-3138.

Sewage Sludge Seminars

LDEQ sponsored its second training session for sewage sludge haulers and disposal facilities in Lafayette on January 7, 2010. Additional seminars will be held at the following times and locations: Thursday, February 11, 2010, Pineville, LA, Thursday March 18, 2010, Gonzales, LA, Thursday, April 15, 2010, Matthews, LA. The training seminars are **FREE** for all attendees. For registration, go to the EnviroSchool website at: <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2601/Default.aspx>. For more information, contact Yvonne Baker at 225-219-3073.

Water Permits Division

The Water Permits Division within the Office of Environmental Services authorizes permits administered under the LDEQ Water Quality Regulations. In addition, Water Permits Division oversees Biosolids Management activities and the Water Quality Certifications program which is conducted in conjunction with the US Army Corps of Engineers. For a more detailed description of the Division's activities and a copy of the WPD Work Plan, please check out the website: <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/63/Default.aspx>

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COMMENTS ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER



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Pesticides Regulation Update

In May 2009, the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals granted EPA's request to halt the new rules which govern how pesticides will be used/applied. Implementation of the new rules will be delayed until April 2011. LDEQ will continue to monitor the appeal and its impact on permitting requirements. EPA will issue a Pesticides General Permit for **non-delegated states, territories and tribes**. LDEQ will issue an LPDES Pesticides General Permit for the State of Louisiana. Watch for more information in the eNewsletter or contact Gary Aydel at 225-219-3002 or Melvin Mitchell at 225-219-3181/3013 for updates

Online Applications

LDEQ is working on a program which will allow applicants to submit applications electronically to the Department. The online application submittal will begin in phases starting with Notice of Intent for General Oil and Gas Permits. LDEQ expects the program to begin in February 2010. For more information contact Yvonne Baker at 225-219-3073.

EPA Region 6 Awards Bruce Fielding

On June 17, 2009, EPA Region 6 awarded Bruce Fielding the State-EPA Strategic Partnership Team Award. The partnership between EPA and LDEQ resulted in the development of Whole Effluent Toxicity requirements in LPDES permits. These changes are to ensure protection of streams and aquatic systems.

2009—2010 Fish and Wildlife Implementation Strategy

On January 10, 2010, the US Fish and Wildlife Service issued its annual letter to LDEQ, updating the 1996 Memorandum of Understanding between the departments. The letter provides an updated implementation strategy and a current endangered species listing for Louisiana. For more information, check out the following link: <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=XUBdv7SaxUs%3d&tabid=243>.

LPDES MQL Update in Process

Water Permits Division, at the request of EPA Region 6, has completed the process of updating 28 of the 32 requested Minimum Quantification Levels (MQLs) in Louisiana's WQMP Guidance Document for the implementation of the State's water quality standards on October 7, 2009. MQL is the level at which a pollutant can be reliably detected. The 4 remaining MQLs for Arsenic, Copper, Lead, and Nickel will be finalized over the next year. For more information contact Bruce Fielding at 225-219-3006.

2010 Water Permit Goals

In the 2009—2010 PPG grant commitment with EPA Region 6, LDEQ committed to issue 44 major permits, 261 minor permits and 17 priority permits. For more information, contact Melvin Mitchell at 225-219-3013.

LDEQ Complaint Procedures

Citizens can use the **Single Point of Contact (SPOC)** - 225-219-3640 or Toll Free 1-888-763-5424. In the event of an environmental emergency, citizens are encouraged to first contact their local authorities - police, sheriff, fire department, etc. Otherwise citizens and the regulated community can contact the SPOC line to report environmental concerns during business hours, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday at the number listed above. To report a concern outside of business hours call 225-342-1234 or the toll free number. **Concerns include spills, releases, odors, fish kills, open burning, waste tires and any other types of environmental incidents.** Citizens can also **report the incident online.**

General Permits Updates

LAG260000—The Master General Permit for Oil and Gas Exploration, Development, & Production Facilities Located within Territorial Seas of Louisiana has been issued, effective January 1, 2010. All existing facilities and existing independent oil and gas wells eligible for coverage under this general permit must submit an NOI within ninety (90) calendar days of the effective date of this permit. Applications for existing facilities and existing independent oil and gas wells should be submitted by March 31, 2010. Facilities that submit after this date are subject to enforcement actions. **LAG300000**—The Master General Permit for Discharges from Dewatering of Petroleum Storage Tanks, Tanks Beds, New Tanks, and Excavations has been reissued, effective January 1, 2010. If you have any questions, contact Linda Gauthier at (225) 219-0801.

LAG380000—The Master General Permit for Potable Water Treatment Facilities has been reissued, effective January 1, 2010. If you have any questions, contact Bonnie Wascom at (225) 219-3091.

LAG490000—The public comment period ended July 23, 2009 for the reissuance of Sand & Gravel Extraction Master General Permit. The final permit is currently under review. If you have any questions, contact Linda Gauthier at (225) 219-0801

LAJ650000—The Master General Permit for Facilities that Dispose Sewage Sludge in a Permitted Landfill has been issued effective February 1, 2010. The WPD will begin granting coverage to facilities in February 2010. If you have any questions, contact Kilren Vidrine at 225-219-3012 or Eura DeHart at 225-219-3092.

LAJ660000—The Master General Permit for Facilities that have their Sewage Sludge Pumped Out has been issued effective February 1, 2010. The WPD will begin granting coverage to facilities in February 2010. If you have any questions, contact Kilren Vidrine at 225-219-3012 or Eura DeHart at 225-219-3092.

New Cost Saving Measures

LDEQ is currently evaluating ways to reduce the use of paper as a cost saving measure. One of the options being considered is the use of postcards instead of letters for documents such as notices of final permit actions and permit renewal reminder letters. The use of postcards could save the Agency up to 75% in postage costs.